

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REPORT  
CD NO.

50X1-HUM

DATE OF  
INFORMATION 1948

DATE DIST. ✓ Jul 1949

NO. OF PAGES 4

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

UNIFIED DIRECTION OF RADIOFICATION

Radio broadcasting has undergone tremendous development in the Soviet Union. Tens of powerful radio-broadcasting stations have been constructed, thousands of public radio-reception systems have been put into operation, and millions of controllable loud-speakers have been set up. The Soviet Union is first in the world in the capacity of its radio-transmitting network.

Radio broadcasting plays a major role in disseminating information, culture, and political training. Although the radio-broadcasting system suffered major destruction during the war, it now has been largely rebuilt. However, to fulfill the tasks of the Five-Year Plan, considerable further development is necessary. Radio-broadcast reception is lagging behind the rapidly developing national economy of the country, and behind the growing demands of the workers, especially in the villages.

Likewise, the radio audience particularly in rural areas is not satisfied with the quality of the work of the radio-receiving network. A significant number of rural public radio-reception systems and radio-receiving sets are silent because of poor maintenance of equipment, and unreliable supply of spare parts, etc. The Section of Cultural and Educational Work of the Leningrad Oblast Soviet of Workers' Deputies installed over 500 loud-speakers in Leningrad Oblast in 1946/47. Most of these loud-speakers are not being used because of unsatisfactory material and technical servicing.

- 1 -

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/07/07 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000600240465-9

**CONFIDENTIAL**

50X1-HUM

What is hindering the development of radiofication, especially in rural areas? A major difficulty is that vast rural areas have low population density in comparison with the city population. The sources of supply of electricity are still unreliable in many rural areas. Installation of public radio-reception systems and networks require substantial material and monetary outlays. The speed of radiofication of the villages is still slow because the Ministry of Communications Equipment Industry and ministries of regional industries are not giving sufficient attention to the needs of radiofication. They have not yet organized mass-scale manufacture of cheap, efficient radio receivers, electric batteries, radio tubes, detectors, insulators, etc.

Although all these obstacles are important, they can be overcome if organizational shortcomings in radiofication of rural areas are eliminated. The lack of a single responsible director of radiofication is the chief cause of the above-listed shortcomings.

Radiofication of our country is being undertaken by several ministries, namely, the Ministries of Communications, Agriculture, State Farms, and also the All-Union Committee on Radiofication and Radio Broadcasting, the Union Radio Engineering Office, the Committee on Cultural and Educational Institutions under the Soviet of Ministers RSFSR, and many other agencies.

Only the Ministry of Communications has a sufficiently sound productive and technical base and the necessary personnel for the widespread construction and utilization of many thousands of public radio-reception systems. However, the Ministry of Communications limits its activities in radiofication to republic, kray, oblast, and rayon centers and populated points within 8 - 10 kilometers of these centers. Who then will be responsible for radiofication of the overwhelming number of other populated points?

The Committee on Radiofication and Radio Broadcasting under the Soviet of Ministers USSR is only responsible for the organization and provision of radio programs. Under the existing setup it cannot provide for the development and utilization of the technical equipment of the radio-broadcasting network. This committee does not have the necessary personnel and equipment at its disposal for any such additional work.

The Leningrad Radio Committee, for example, was not even provided with workers for radiofication. After the war the Leningrad Committee never raised the problem of radiofication before the oblast Party directors or the Soviet state organization. All its activity was turned to the problem of radio broadcasting, and to the collection of information on the development of radio networks.

The Union Radio-Engineering Department, which was set up under the All-Union Radio Committee, constructs public radio-reception systems depending on the orders of various departments, but is not responsible for utilization of these public radio-reception systems, particularly, radio sets in state farms and kolkhoses.

The Ministries of Agriculture, State Farms, and other departments do not have the necessary productive base, experience, personnel, or supply organization.

At present, radiofication is characterized by the absence of a unified technical policy, of a unified development of the radio network. As a result, personnel, money, and equipment are being poorly utilized. Taking Leningrad Oblast as an example again, we find that in 1947 an affiliate of the Scientific Research Institute of the Ministry of Communications drew up a general plan for the radiofication of the oblast. The number, capacity, and distribution of a network of public radio-reception systems, which were to be installed, was determined by technical and economic analysis. However, actual radiofication in accordance with this plan proved impossible because of organizational shortcomings.

- 2 -

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

50X1-HUM

In response to an appeal of the Leningrad Oblast and city committees of the VKF(b), the enterprises and organizations of Leningrad, along with the Leningrad Department of the Union Radio Engineering Trust, installed more than 50 public radio-reception systems in the oblast. However, at many populated points no public radio-reception systems, and at other points low-power systems, capable of serving only a particular enterprise, state farm or collective farm, were installed. However, the capacity of systems installed at various enterprises and populated points is not fully utilized.

Enterprises often set up expensive, powerful equipment capable of maintaining thousands of controllable loud-speakers when the given enterprise requires less than a hundred.

In Vsevolozhskiy Rayon, Leningrad Oblast, one public radio-reception system of 100 watts and four of 500 watts were installed. Various departments have already installed eight small systems, but most populated points are still without any radiofication.

In Gatchinskiy Rayon the "Druzhnaya Gorka" Plant has a public radio-reception system of 100 watts which can service controllable loud-speakers in two adjacent kolkhozes. However, because of a lack of organizational coordination, each of these kolkhozes was equipped with individual 25-watt systems.

The lack of trained personnel to service the newly constructed public radio-reception systems is a real handicap. Various industrial enterprises have solved this problem by using electricians or telephone linemen in their spare time. Public radio-reception systems in kolkhozes and village soviets generally do not have any maintenance personnel, and are serviced haphazardly. Breakdowns are usually left unattended.

At Kotel'nich and Pustomerzha village soviets of Kingiseppskiy Rayon, the Leningrad main office installed 500-watt public radio-reception systems, each capable of servicing 2,000 controllable loud-speakers. However, these systems can operate only when someone from the main office comes out to service them. Similar conditions prevail in the systems of Zaruch'evskiy village soviet of Os'minskiy Rayon, of the Rudno and Begunitsey Machine-Tractor Stations, of the villages of Pul'kovo and Torcevo, and many other places.

The absence of direction and official supervision of departmental public radio-reception systems often results in the fact that the program and quality of radio broadcasts depend on the whims of the maintenance personnel. For example, if the man on duty likes music, concerts are transmitted with a loss in social and political broadcasts, and in the ideological guidance of the kolkhozes and village soviets.

In every oblast communications administration there is a special inspection section for maintenance and development of public radio-reception systems of the various departments. However, experience has indicated that the inspection section chiefly performs the functions of registration and simple technical supervision.

Within the Ministry of Communications there are obstacles to the radiofication of rural localities. The directors of many republic and oblast administrations, and especially the office of communications, often consider radiofication of secondary importance, ignore it, and even actually discriminate against it. In Leningrad Oblast in 1947, many chiefs and assistant chiefs of communications offices proved in examinations that they did not even grasp the elementary concepts of radiofication.

- 3 -

**CONFIDENTIAL**

50X1-HUM

**CONFIDENTIAL**

The Ministry of Communications has often tried to interest directors of communications offices in the over-all direction of public radio-reception systems. However, the basic activities of these directors (postal, telephone, and telegraph) do not permit them to give sufficient attention to radiofication. Why then is radiofication, a specialized branch of the economy, not separated from the Ministry of Communications and set up as an independent cost-accounting organization?

Experience proves that radio, which technically has little in common with electrical communications, gains little from union with it. In the early stages of radio's development such a union was expedient, but now, since radio has expanded, its separation into an independent cost-accounting organization is far more expedient.

For the development of rural radiofication, problems of organization must first be solved. A big organization, responsible for the maintenance and development of radiofication in the city and the village, must be set up. This organization, operating independently, would make concrete demands on our industry, inspect existing methods of radiofication of the villages from the standpoint of new technical and organizational possibilities, and set up more flexible forms of maintenance and development of radio-receiving nets. The organization must have at its disposal studios, radio-broadcasting equipment, all the technical equipment of wire broadcasting, scientific research institutes, construction and installation offices, etc. This organization can effectively adopt the progressive technology for radio broadcasting which our industry is increasingly producing.

The direction of radiofication and radio broadcasting must be reorganized.

- E N D -

- 4 -

**CONFIDENTIAL**